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## NOTES FROM LOCAL BRANCHES

### OFFICERS ELECTED.—

Columbia University: Chairman, W. W. Cook; Secretary, Margaret E. Maltbie.

University of Missouri: Chairman, George Lefevre; Vice-Chairman, Max F. Meyer; Secretary, Jonas Viles.

The State College of Washington: Chairman, A. L. Melander; Vice-Chairman, F. J. Sievers; Treasurer, E. F. Gaines; Secretary, F. D. Heald.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA.—The local branch sends in the following outline which served as a basis for a recent meeting.

### A PLAN TO INCREASE INTEREST IN SCHOLARSHIP AND TO INDUCE ATTENTION TO STUDIES ON THE PART OF A LARGER NUMBER OF STUDENTS

#### I. *The Present Situation.*

1. Failure of honors, prizes, honor courses, and the like to produce this result.
2. Lack of sufficient stimulus or incentive in the present requirements for a degree.
  - a. The requirements are adapted to the poorest passable student; *i.e.*, we have a system of minimum requirements with no recognition of higher attainments or "overpay for additional product."
  - b. Requirements are based on time spent rather than on attainments.
  - c. The more capable or brilliant students, being able to do the required work in a fraction of the time allowed, find nothing to challenge their powers.
3. The time and energy given to extra-curricular activities is having a demoralizing influence in university life. Many of the most capable young men and women are spending an undue amount of their time in this way, who should be induced to direct their energies to things of real and permanent value.

## II. *Objects to be Gained.*

1. To interest a larger number of students to put their best efforts into their studies; incidentally to reduce the relative prominence and influence of extra-curricular activities and amusements.
2. To make the securing of a degree dependent upon certain attainment rather than the expenditure of certain time, and to attempt to standardize the attainment for students of varying degrees of ability.

## III. *Assumptions.*

1. Inducement to a change of habit of mind is to be found in some appeal to the individual interest.
2. The atmosphere of the college would be immensely improved if a considerable group of students—in addition to any who now do so—were to concentrate their energies vigorously on their studies.
3. Students who secure marks of A or B thereby give evidence of attainment higher in quantity as well as quality than that of students whose marks are C or D.
4. It is possible to form an hypothetical estimate of this quantitative and qualitative difference and it will be good policy to reward the higher attainment if by so doing the unconscious effort can be induced.

## IV. *Plan Suggested.*

1. Credit related to quality of work.

The mechanical details of this plan are based on the general assumption that A work during three years represents as great or satisfactory attainment intellectually and in character foundation as C work during four years.

- a. The present requirements of 180 credits and 180 honor points may remain the standard and four years may be regarded as the normal period for securing the Bachelor's degree.
- b. Announcements should be made and students' records kept in the same terms as at present (hours of lectures, laboratory or recitation, credits, etc.).

c. In the registrar's office each student's credits will be evaluated in reference to the marks received according to the following scheme:

<i>Marks</i>	<i>Credits toward Graduation</i>
D	Ten per cent. off the credit hours in the course
C	Par (same as the credit hours in the course)
B	Ten per cent. added to the credit hours in the course
A	Twenty per cent. added to the credit hours in the course

d. In applying the regulations for promotion from the junior to the senior college, the credits shall be evaluated as above indicated.

e. A student whose credits toward graduation are above par may enter upon the major and minor studies as soon as the prerequisites have been taken, provided the group requirements have not been postponed.

2. Credit hours allowed in proportion to the student's ability and willingness to work.

a. The average grades received in one quarter or in two consecutive quarters will determine the number of hours that may be elected in the following quarter. A student who gains the privilege of electing a number of hours above the normal may continue that schedule so long as he maintains his high standing.

b. Students will be limited in their elections in accordance with the following scheme:

<i>Average Grades</i>	<i>Hours limited to</i>
D to C	15, 13, 10 (at the discretion of the Students' Work Committee)
C	13 to 17 hours
C + (1.50 H.P.*)	17 hours
B (2.00 H.P.)	18 hours
B + (2.50 H.P.)	21 hours

\*Honor Points.

c. Elections each quarter must provide for normal progress in the requirements of the student's course and in the sequence of major and minor studies.

NEW LOCAL BRANCHES.—Additional local branches have been organized at nine institutions. Much additional work remains to be done in this direction, also in maintaining the activity of existing branches.

#### *STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR LOCAL BRANCHES*

The following statement has been recently prepared to explain the need and the functions of local branches:

The Association now has over 4,000 members with 70 local branches in as many institutions. There are, however, a number of colleges and universities with more than the necessary seven members where for various reasons no local branch has been maintained. Since the successful activity of the Association and its committees necessarily depends on the cooperation of local branches and is likely to depend on it more and more with the development of the referendum procedure, it is important that local branches be organized in these colleges and universities. The adoption of a pending amendment to the constitution would indeed impose upon the officers the duty of appointing local branch officers in institutions where no initiative is taken,—a responsibility which the officers would certainly be glad not to incur.

It is of course appreciated that in most institutions the pressure of committee work and society meetings is severe and that local branch organization can only be justified by definite and cogent reasons. These may be stated as follows:

*Local Problems.*—The profession as a whole, as distinguished from national societies for particular subjects, has common interests and problems with which the Association is organized to deal, in part through committees, in part through the annual meeting and the BULLETIN, but in the end the local problems can be dealt with only by men in the institution concerned. If they recognize that they have common interests, they should be willing to make the moderate sacrifice of time and effort which simple local branch organization involves.

*Annual Meeting.*—The annual meeting, on account of geographical difficulties and conflicting engagements, will rarely be broadly representative except on the delegate basis. One im-

portant service which a local branch can render the Association consists, therefore, in sending a delegate to the meeting. Without such representation the local members are practically disfranchised and are not doing their part to promote the objects of the Association.

*Business during the Year.*—The Council and the committees of the Association aim to present important questions of general interest for local branches during the year. The discussion of these questions at local branch meetings should be of special value to the branches themselves and particularly to junior members. The results of such discussion when transmitted to the general officers or to the chairmen of committees form the best possible basis for ascertaining and expressing the consensus of professional opinion.

It may be added that while the active membership in the Association is restricted to those engaged in teaching or research with three years' previous service, it is entirely competent for any local branch to invite junior teachers or executive officers to its meetings.